

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1. SUMMARY: FIRST PLENARY SESSION CONCLUDED MAY 18, AND BOARD WILL NOW TAKE UP COMMITTEE WORK. MOST DONOR COUNTRIES IN GENERAL DEBATE SUPPORTED NEED FOR INCREASED REVENUES IN PRINCIPLE, BUT WANTED FINANCIAL ESTIMATES RELATED TO DEMONSTRATED PROGRAM NEEDS AND CAPACITIES, WITHOUT A PRIOR ACCEPTANCE OF 20 PERCENT REVENUE INCREASE. LDC'S ON OTHER HAND UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED 20 PERCENT INCREASE. INTERVENTIONS IN SESSION UNUSUALLY APOLITICAL, EVEN FOR UNICEF. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL DEBATE OF UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTINUED MAY 16. MOST SPEAKERS FOCUSED ON IYC (ALTHOUGH THAT WAS NEXT AGENDA ITEM) AND ON PROPOSAL BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR INCREASE IN UNICEF REVENUE TO \$500 MILLION (\$350 MILLION IN 1979 DOLLARS) BY 1984. WEST GERMANY LED THOSE CASTING DOUBT ON FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF SEEKING ACHIEVE GOAL AS DID UK. OTHER LEADING DONORS FAVORED IT. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, NOT UN- NATURALLY, ALSO FAVORED INCREASE.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LABOUISSIE REPLIED TO COMMENTS
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MAY 17, PROMISING TO TAKE OBSERVATIONS INTO CONSIDERATION. HE EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION AT GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT MORE FLEXIBILITY COULD BE INTRODUCED INTO FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BY EXTENDING, IF NECESSARY, PERIOD FOR PAYMENT OF RECURRENT COSTS EXTENDED ASSISTANCE TO LOWER RANGE OF GROUP II COUNTRIES, E.G., INDIA AND PAKISTAN, AND FINANCING "NOTED" PROJECTS FROM GENERAL RESOURCES,

IF AVAILABLE. LABOUISSSE FELT, HOWEVER, THERE NO CONSENSUS ON SIZE OR TIMING OF INCREASE IN UNICEF REVENUE GOALS. HE EMPHASIZED TARGET WAS GLOBAL AND NOT AIMED AT INDIVIDUAL DONOR COUNTRIES AND IN NO WAY MEANT A COMMITMENT. UNICEF DID NOT WISH INCREASE AT EXPENSE OTHER UN PROGRAMS. HE ASSERTED UNICEF COULD HANDLE INCREASE AND COUNTRIES COULD ABSORB IT. HE SUGGESTED RETURN TO SUBJECT IN RESUMED PLENARY MAY 25.

4. DEBATE ON INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (IYC) FOLLOWED. U.S. DELEGATE JEAN YOUNG SPOKE STRONGLY IN SUPPORT OF IYC GOALS AND REPORTED ON PROGRESS MADE BY U.S. IN PREPARATIONS FOR YEAR. REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL SIDE, DR. LIM OF IYC SECRETARIAT NOTED 72 NATIONAL COMMISSIONS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED AND ANOTHER 36 WERE UNDERWAY. IYC CLEARLY HAD CAPTURED IMAGINATION OF DELEGATES AND COUNTRIES. SHE REPORTED MANY NATIONAL COMMISSIONS UNDER PATRONAGE OF OR HEADED BY HEADS OF STATE OR THEIR WIVES. IYC ITEM ATTRACTED MANY INTERVENTIONS BY MEMBERS AND CAUSED SESSION TO RUN OVER AN HOUR LATE.

5. PLENARY CONCLUDED FIRST SESSION MAY 19 WITH TWO AGENDA ITEMS, REACHING THE CHILDREN OF THE URBAN POOR AND THE FEASIBILITY OF A MEDIUM-TERM WORK PLAN. ALTERNATE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DR. GEORGE LYTHCOTT UNCLASSIFIED

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SPOKE ON THE FORMER AND EMPHASIZED THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF URBAN AND RURAL AREAS. HE CALLED FOR MAINTAINING THE FOCUS ON RURAL WHILE ENSURING THAT THE URBAN SECTOR RECEIVED COMPARABLE ATTENTION. MOST SPEAKERS ON THE SUBJECT (WHICH IS A CONTINUATION OF LAST YEAR'S ITEM) FELT UNICEF SHOULD GIVE MORE EMPHASIS TO URBAN AREAS THAN IN THE PAST. IN RECOUNTING THE BRAZILIAN EXPERIENCE, THE GOB DELEGATE HIGHLIGHTED THE FACT THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL PROBLEMS CAUSED BY MIGRATION TO URBAN AREAS, BRAZIL'S HIGH BIRTH RATE COMPOUNDS THE PROBLEM; HE STATED THAT BRAZIL NOW DOUBLES ITS POPULATION IN 27 YEARS. DEBATE, HOWEVER, DID NOT COME DOWN ANYWHERE AND WILL DOUBTLESS RESUME AT THE 1979 SESSION.

6. FINAL ITEM WAS MEDIUM-TERM WORK PLAN WHICH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BELIEVED FEASIBLE. PLAN IS ROLLING FIVE-YEAR PLAN COVERING PAST YEAR, PRESENT ONE, AND THREE TO COME. U.S. (HERBERT G. WING) JOINED MOST DELEGATIONS IN SUPPORTING PLAN AS MANAGEMENT TOOL AND AS OF HELP TO COUNTRIES IN ADVANCE BUDGET PLANNING FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNICEF. UK, WHICH HAD OPPOSED IDEA IN 1977, CAME AROUND TO MAJORITY VIEW, BUT GERMANS WERE

SKEPTICAL AND ADVERTED AGAIN TO THEIR OBJECTIONS TO
GOAL OF 20 PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE IN REVENUE. SWISS,
CANADIANS, SWEDES, FRENCH, NORWEGIANS, AND OTHERS
SUPPORTED PLAN.

7. COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE WILL MEET
MAY 19 AND 20, WITH PROGRAM COMMITTEE TO START MAY 22.
ATMOSPHERICS ARE FINE, AND POLITICAL POLEMICS NON-
EXISTENT. LEONARD

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